

*Training B*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : [REDACTED] A&TS

DATE: 19 September 1957

FROM : Chief, Interrogation Research Division

SUBJECT: History of Polygraph in the Agency

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Polygraph Domestic

1. The polygraph program was inaugurated in the Agency in February 1948 on an experimental basis to determine the feasibility of using the technique as an aid to investigation, interrogation, and as a security screening technique for incumbent employees.

2. It was determined that polygraph could be used in the intelligence type of screening and in 1951 the program was enlarged for incumbent employees were asked to voluntarily participate.

3. In late 1951, early 1952, the program expanded to include routine security interviews for all employees during their processing for entering on duty.

4. From the outset of the polygraph program, it has been entirely voluntary in respect to persons being tested. Prior to taking the test, each person verbally agrees to participate and is asked to sign a statement of consent which becomes an official part of their polygraph record. To date there have been over [REDACTED] persons tested, and only five persons have refused to participate. In these five cases refusals have been based upon accepted religious or moral grounds, and these persons have continued in employment without prejudice.

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6. We feel that polygraph has been well received because the program has been predicated on service as an aid to investigation/interrogation, and not as a means to the end.

7. Further, the confidential nature of the interview is that it is not available to other persons in the Agency, nor is the information derived from the interview disseminated. Every precaution is taken in insuring the confidence of the interview so that no improper harm may be accrued to the individual or the Agency.

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